

A-level German

Board and specification: **Pearson Edexcel 9GNo**
Head of Department: Mrs R Garcia (r.garcia@cwlc.email)

Subject specific entry requirements:

- Grade 6 or above in GCSE German
- Grade 5 or above in English Literature and/or Language.

What skills are required of students?

Students must be highly motivated and interested in the subject. They should also be able to undertake independent study outside of the classroom and be willing to try and speak in the target language at every available opportunity.

A-level Modern Foreign Languages are some of the most challenging, therefore students must be willing to practise grammar, reading and listening skills every day, as well as learning vocabulary. They should also be willing to take part in an exchange with the target language country.

Modules titles

During the two-year A-level course in Modern Foreign Languages you will undertake the following topics:

Theme 1: Social development in Germany

(Theme 1 is set in the context of Germany only)

- **Nature and the environment**
- **Education**
- **The world of work**

Theme 2: Political and artistic culture in the German-speaking world

(Theme 2 is set in the context of German-speaking countries and communities)

- **Music**
- **The media**
- **The role of festivals and traditions**

Theme 3: Immigration and the multicultural society in Germany

(Theme 3 is set in the context of Germany only)

- **The positive impact of immigration**
 - **The challenges of immigration and integration**
 - **Governmental and social responses to immigration**
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Theme 4: The reunification of Germany

(Theme 4 is set in the context of Germany only)

- **Society in the GDR (East Germany) before reunification**
- **Events leading up to reunification**
- **Germany since reunification**

Assessment overview

Paper 1: Listening, reading and translation (*Paper code: 9GNo/01)

Written examination: 2 hours, 40% of the qualification, 80 marks

This paper draws on vocabulary and structures across all four Themes.

Students are not permitted access to a dictionary during the examination. The examination is made up of:

- **Section A: Listening (30 marks)**

A listening assessment based on a recording, featuring male and female German speakers. Students will respond to comprehension questions based on a variety of contexts and sources.

- **Section B: Reading (30 marks)**

A reading assessment based on a variety of text-types and genres where students will have to respond to comprehension questions.

- **Section C: Translation into English (20 marks)**

An unseen passage to be translated from German to English.

Paper 2: Written response to works and translation (*Paper code: 9GNo/02)

Written examination: 2 hours and 40 minutes, 30% of the qualification, 120 marks

This paper draws on the study of two discrete German works. You will study the film **Good Bye, Lenin** and the novel **Der Vorleser**.

Assessment overview

This paper includes a translation exercise and two essays on either two literary texts, or one literary text and one film (students must not answer questions on two films). Students are not permitted access to a dictionary or any documentation relating to the works during the examination.

- **Section A: Translation (20 marks)**

Students translate an unseen passage from English into German.

- **Section B & C: Written response to works (literary texts & films) (100 marks)**

Students select one question from a choice of two for each of their chosen literary text and film.

Paper 3: Speaking (*Paper code: 9GNo/03)

Internally conducted and externally assessed

Total assessment time: between 21 and 23 minutes, which includes a single period of 5 minutes formal preparation time, 30% of the qualification, 72 marks

Assessment overview

Students complete two tasks. Task 1 worth 30 marks and Task 2 worth 42 marks.

- **Task 1 (discussion on a theme)**

Students discuss one theme from the specification based on a stimulus containing two different statements.

- **Task 2 (presentation and discussion on independent research)**

Students present a summary of the key findings of the written sources they have used for their research and answer questions on this. They then have a wider discussion on their research.

What kinds of work will you do in class and at home?

- Students will practise the core skills of listening, speaking, reading and writing in every lesson.
- Research may be set as homework.
- Each lesson students will be given vocabulary to learn.
- Students will be given grammar exercises to practise in every lesson.
- Reading and listening will be of authentic material (as they are in the exam) and students will be expected to read books and watch films in the target language as well; to help prepare them for the external exams.

What other A-levels does your subject connect well with?

An A-level in German will complement any other subject!

What types of university course will be helped by this A-level?

An A-level in a modern foreign language could lead towards international courses and any related courses connected with English and MFL.

In an increasingly global economy, proficiency in a foreign language is a highly marketable job skill. German is integral to, or complementary with, a huge number of careers including: international business, computing, travel and tourism, public administration, law, banking, medicine, accountancy, journalism, education and social work.

A sound working knowledge of one or more modern European languages has become a major differentiator when it comes to recruitment. The study of other European languages and literature develops cultural awareness and sensitivity, improves one's ability to communicate and promotes greater appreciation of the European business environment.